WarSim nears U.S. Army validation

The Warfighters' Simulation (WarSim) program moved a big step closer to receiving validation from the U.S. Army after recently completing three weeks of testing at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., with a 100 percent availability rate during the final week.

The testing by prime contractor Lockheed Martin Simulation, Training & Support before officials from the Army's Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training & Instrumentation and the service's National Simulation Center at Leavenworth resulted in the company getting a contract extension through 2009 totaling $24 million, said Ed Payne, program manager for Army constructive simulation at the Lockheed Martin unit.

The recent testing was on "the largest scenario we have ever done" for WarSim, said Payne, and integrated the system with the Army's common after-action-review system and its nonkinetics effects model that models population, along with testing against a series of existing command-and-control devices.

Getting 100 percent availability "just doesn't happen in these types of tests," Payne said, even in legacy systems.

The Army has a long, drawn-out formula for getting simulation systems validated, he added, and the recent success puts WarSim much farther on that path.

The success also puts it a further step removed from the debris of its failed predecessor, the tri-service Joint Simulation System (JSims), which was shelved by the Pentagon in late 2003 after years of cost overruns and delays.

The Army picked up WarSim, the land component of JSims, from the remnants and hopes the constructive simulation eventually can replace a number of legacy simulations in use by the service, including the Corps Battle Simulation (CBS); the tactical intelligence simulation and the run-time manager that talks to real-time C2 devices.

The next step is in September, when WarSim goes to South Korea to do a side-by-side test with CBS. In 2008, the focus will be integrating it with the service's joint conflict and tactical simulation, its high-fidelity logistics model and also adding to the integration with the nonkinetic effects model, according to Payne.

Although only the U.S. Army so far has expressed interest in War-Sim, Payne said Lockheed Martin remains hopeful that ground services from other countries will see the need to replace their aging constructive sims with WarSim. The company has talked with Sweden, the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia to date, he said.

"Our message is that they understand they might want to consider the next-gen technology the Army has to offer," he said.
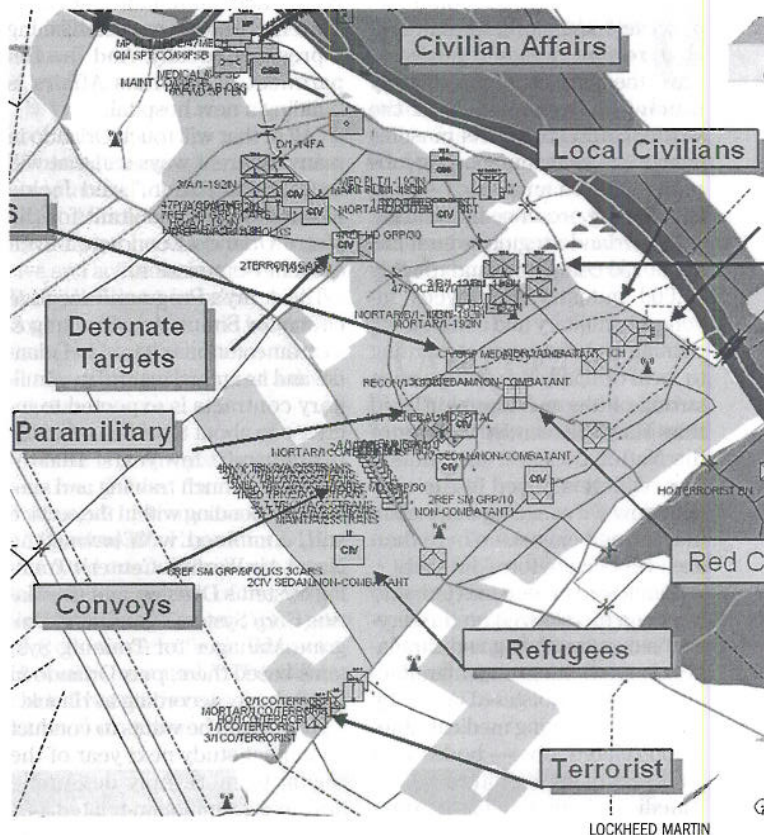
The Army's WarSim constructive simulation performed well in tests at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

U.S. Navy gets shore-based LCS trainer

Lockheed Martin has delivered the first shore-based trainer for U.S. Navy Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) crews.

The Future Surface Combatant Scalable Shore Based Trainer at San Diego Naval Base will allow the crews of Freedom, the first LCS, and any additional Lockheed Martin-designed LCSs to perform high-fidelity, realistic shipboard bridge, combat system and engineering duties, the company said. The first Freedom crew members began training at the facility in early May.

The FSC-SSBT supports the LCS concept of operations through the re-use of shipboard software, integrated simulations virtual environments and commercially available hardware. The FSC-SSBT also supports the Navy's Blue and Gold crew manning concept, training one crew while the other is deployed.

In June 2006, the Navy awarded Lockheed a $6 million contract to build the trainer within an 11-month period. The company said it delivered the FSC-SSBT ahead of schedule April 27 and approximately $300,000 under budget.

CAE modeling and software unit debuts

A new modeling, simulation and display graphics software company made its debut at the IMAGE 2007 conference in Scottsdale, Ariz. in July.

Presagis was formed following CAE's acquisition of three commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) software companies — Engenuity Technologies, MultiGen-Paradigm and TERREX. CAE has integrated its own software tools capabilities with those of the three acquired companies into Presagis, which will operate as a stand-alone unit.

Former Engenuity chief Patrice Commune is Presagis' president.

On its Web site, the company said that open architecture tool sets such as OpenFlight, VAPS and TerraPage standards, as well as the HLA communications standard, will continue to be the foundation for the Presagis product portfolio.

"With our extensive knowledge and industry experience, Presagis is in a unique position to push the boundaries of modeling and simulation software development by spearheading advanced research and development," Commune says in a letter on the site. "Our increased resources will enable us to respond faster to customer demands and to deliver new features and functionalities to market while expanding the possibilities for COTS technology.

"Our single vendor solution will eliminate the challenges associated with the implementation of multiple modeling and simulation products and will stand alone in its levels of integration, depth of functionality and the power of its features."